

Filed for intro on 05/25/2000

HOUSE RESOLUTION 255  
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to express our deepest appreciation to  
Tennessee Titans linebacker Eddie Robinson  
for his exemplary participation in the legislative  
“Day on the Hill” with Representative Tommie F.  
Brown.

WHEREAS, on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, Representative Tommie F. Brown hosted a  
very informative seventh annual “Day on the Hill”; and

WHEREAS, those who were fortunate enough to attend this great event were honored to  
hear a fine speech given by Tennessee Titans star linebacker Eddie Robinson; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson spoke with force and strong conviction to an eager young  
audience of more than 250 Chattanooga-Hamilton County students, upholding the theme  
“Destiny is a Matter of Choice, Not Chance!”; and

WHEREAS, he told his attentive listeners that they need HELP: H (history), E  
(education), L (legislation), and P (perseverance) to make good choices, reach goals, and  
achieve success; and

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WHEREAS, his timely talk included the marvelous African proverb-Question: When does a boy become a man? Answer: When he has to!; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Robinson made the following important comments: "At some point you have to make choices (good choices). Don't hang out with people who try to make choices for you. When others make choices for you (bad choices) you are putting your dreams administration in someone's else hands. Success is something that you must define for yourself. If you make good choices and reach your goals—You're Successful!"; and

WHEREAS, he also wisely pointed out that, "Just because you start at the back of the race, it doesn't mean you have to finish that way. Life is about adaptation, overcome mistakes and bad decisions. Perception is the reality to the uninformed. Don't always believe what people say. Don't use excuses. Educate yourself. Use the Public Library (It's free). Your education isn't always someone else's responsibility"; and

WHEREAS, he also took time to answer questions, sign autographs, and appear in a group picture; and

WHEREAS, Eddie was a key factor in the success of our 1999-2000 American Football Conference Champion Tennessee Titans; and

WHEREAS, the highly regarded Eddie Joseph Robinson, Jr., was born April 13, 1970 in New Orleans and attended Brother Martin High School, where he lettered in both football and track, was captain of the Crusaders football team, and was named the high school's Senior Athlete of the Year; and

WHEREAS, he originally attended Alabama State on an academic scholarship, where he was a walk-on for their football team and was later shifted to linebacker after playing on the offensive line; and

WHEREAS, his excellent three-year collegiate totals included 233 tackles, 11 sacks, 10 passes defended, two fumbles recovered, and one interception; and

WHEREAS, as a senior, Eddie was selected All-Southwestern Athletic Conference and Conference Defensive Player of the Year, Associated Press First-Team Division 1-AA All-American, and Sheridan Black College First-Team All-American and was also honored as the Sheridan Black College Defensive Player of the Year twice; and

WHEREAS, as a result of his impressive college record, Eddie was signed by the then Houston Oilers in the second round in the 1992 National Football League draft; and

WHEREAS, in his first NFL season, he started 11 of 16 games for the Oilers, made 54 tackles, 10 special team tackles, and recorded one sack; he was also named to the First-Team All-Rookie squad by the *College and Pro Football Newsweekly*; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, Eddie started in 15 of 16 games for the Oilers and made 57 tackles; his 1994 campaign included 15 starts and a season best 66 tackles and six passes defended; and

WHEREAS, 1995 was his best year to that point, with 16 games started, a then career high of 72 tackles and 3.5 sacks; and

WHEREAS, during his outstanding 1996 season, Eddie played for the Jacksonville Jaguars, was their leading tackler in the regular season, with a career-high and team-record 165 stops; he added seven passes defended, one sack, five quarterback pressures and one fumble recovery. During the American Football Conference title game, he also led the team with twelve tackles; and

WHEREAS, his stellar 1997 season included having started 13 games and playing in all 16, being the Jaguars' second-leading tackler with 161, two sacks, ten passes defended, seven quarterback pressures and two fumbles recovered; and

WHEREAS, in 1998, Eddie returned to the Oilers; he started 16 games and was second on the team with 139 tackles; and

WHEREAS, his 1999 statistics included starting in all 16 games with 82 tackles recorded; and

WHEREAS, his awesome 8-year National Football League career marks include missing only one out of 127 games and starting 117 games; and

WHEREAS, as much as Eddie Robinson enjoys the gridiron, Number 55 will quickly tell you that his favorite activity is talking to and motivating young people, providing them with a much-needed positive role model; and

WHEREAS, through his exceptional guidance and contributions, each year the Eddie Robinson Foundation awards college scholarships; and

WHEREAS, he enjoys the love and support of his devoted wife, Tonja, who is a kindergarten teacher; and

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially recognize talented athletes who succeed in their sport and use that success to inspire and help others to lead better, more productive lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That Representative Tommie Brown and this Tennessee General Assembly hereby expresses their heartfelt appreciation to Eddie Robinson for generously taking time, despite a very busy schedule, to participate in the legislative "Day on the Hill." That excellent participation was very well received and clearly one of the highlights of the event. We wish him much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we also honor and commend Eddie Robinson, both for his fine play in helping our beloved Tennessee Titans win the AFC championship and for his lengthy record of community service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we wish Eddie Robinson a most successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.